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near Tiquisate, in Escuintla Department. The bomb, exploded October 1, was probably a belated PGT anniversary effort.

To the Right. The DCG came in for some harrassment and intimidation during October. On the eve of the DCG national convention, three DCG activists in Tiquisate were charged with unauthorized possession of two Thompson submachineguns. Police reports stated that the accused had been storing the weapons for outgoing DCG secretary-general Danilo Barillas. During the week following the convention, however, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told us that the arrests had been an MLN put-up job for which the GOG was not responsible. After explaining that the accused were too intelligent to have been caught with weapons [REDACTED]

On October 21, another 3 DCG party members were arrested in Escuintla and charged with possession of subversive literature, namely 23 PGT leaflets.

On October 26, a grenade was thrown at Danilo Barillas' home, and the explosion damaged his lawn. Following the incident the DCG requested a meeting with the Minister of Government to discuss the matter.

Finally, in municipal elections held October 27, the MLN mayor of Totonicapán used teargas to disperse a crowd protesting the mayor's failure to validate election returns showing a DCG victory.

The mayor's apparent willingness to steal the elections did not receive GOG backing, and it now appears that the DCG candidate who won in Totonicapán will be allowed to take office.

Comment: Harrassment and intimidation are practices of long standing in Guatemalan politics. While the GOG has so far refrained from engaging in those practices, the custom has died harder among other elements of the right. The DCG, while it has so far not blamed its troubles on the GOG, has called on the GOG to take preventive action, and warned that failure to do so would compel the DCG to take "those measures necessary" to protect itself. End Comment.

III. Other Incidents Five persons were kidnapped from their homes in Mariscos on October 6, and their tortured bodies were discovered two days later. Twenty persons were reported to have participated in the kidnapping operation.

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Near the end of the month, several men machinegunned a banana company veterinarian and his aide while they were at work. Two men were captured but others were reported to have escaped across the border to Honduras.

Comment: We mentioned both these incidents during a recent trip to Guatemalan area adjacent to that in which the two incidents took place. [redacted] a long-time MLN politician in the region told us that groups of bandoleros were operating in the area. He said that the groups were at least partly composed of ex-guerrillas, who had dropped their ideological labels and were now merely preying on the public instead of working. The situation has reverted to much the way it was prior to initiation of the guerrilla movement of the 1960's. [redacted] said that the groups were perfect targets for ideological exploitation.

The situation in Izabal has been worsened, according to [redacted] by corrupt judicial and military commissioner systems and by the military commander's failure to exert firm control in the area. End Comment.

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